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Approved For Release 2006/09/26 : CIA-RDP89B00900R000600060018-4

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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22 NOV 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: OXCART Extension

REFERENCE: Memorandum for D/CIA from D/NFO dated  
7 October 1967; Subject: OXCART Extension

1. The referent memorandum and Scope Cotton Decision No. 17, which was attached, have been carefully reviewed. Our comments on specific aspects are set forth below.

2. The funds allocated for the extension have been taken into our accounts and will be reflected in the next Status of Funds Report. Although the total allocated to date is inadequate for the remainder of the operational period, we do not recommend additional funding at this time. During December we will carefully review our requirements, and submit a reclamation in more precise terms than would be possible now. It is also our understanding that all of the closeout costs will be funded separately during the third quarter of the fiscal year.

3. The most significant aspect of the two documents is the reduction of the fleet to five aircraft and limited use of the trainer and test vehicle. Although we concur in the grounding of the aircraft at the times specified, we do not believe that it would be in the best interests of the Government to immediately transfer them to dead storage at Palmdale.

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Declassification Review by NGA

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Rather, we propose to leave them in the hangars at [REDACTED] until April and then store all the aircraft at one time. We would, of course, eliminate the crews for the grounded aircraft, and there would be no cost increase as a result of this course of action. There would, however, be significant advantages. The grounded operational aircraft would serve as a backup in case of attrition or serious deficiency in one of the other aircraft. The availability of the test aircraft would make it possible for us to resolve urgent problems if they should arise during this period. And, finally, all of the grounded aircraft would be available for partial cannibalization if critical items are required. This approach would cost no more than immediate transfer to dead storage and would provide us a degree of flexibility which would not otherwise exist.

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In addition to the OXCART Program, it would be used for U-2R radar cross section and electronic testing. It would also be available for SR-71 tests and other Air Force projects during this time.

5. Your memorandum proposes that [REDACTED] be completely closed by 30 June 1968. We are not sure whether this will be accomplished, but there will be no requirement for NRO funds for [REDACTED] in FY 1969.

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CARL E. DUCKETT  
Director, CIA Reconnaissance Programs

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SIGNATURE RECOMMENDED:

Director of Special Activities

Date

BPD/COMPT/OSA [redacted] dm (9 Nov 67)  
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